

SWALFHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

together with the

REPORT

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR1950
.....S T A F FMedical Officer of Health:Robert N.C. McCurdy, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(from 25.9.50)C.Warden Orr, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.& S,
D.P.H. (from 1.1.50 to 24.9.50)Sanitary InspectorE.M. Jenkins, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
.....GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in ares	93,216
Population (estimated at mid-year by Registrar General)	8,572
Number of inhabited houses	2,689
Rateable value at 31.12.50	£24,762. 0. 0d.
Product of 1d Rate	£102.10. 5½d



To :-

The Chairman and Members
of THE SWAFFHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman,
My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my first Annual Report on the sanitary circumstances, health and vital statistics of your District for the year 1950.

In most respects, the health of the District has been good. The birth rate rose to 21.9 per thousand of the population and is now considerably higher than the national rate which fell to 15.8. The death rate fell to 9.7 and remains considerably below the national rate of 11.6.

There are several disquieting features, however. The number of deaths of infants under the age of one year rose for the second year running. It could be said that most of these deaths were, under the circumstances in which they occurred, inevitable. But, these circumstances were not necessarily inevitable. The Infant Mortality Rate rose to 37.2 while the national rate fell to 29.8.

The number of deaths from tuberculosis rose slightly, from 3 in 1949 to 4 in 1950. What is more alarming is that three of these deaths were in persons under 30 and were due to tubercular meningitis. The tuberculosis death rate was 0.47 while the national rate is 0.36 and the county rate is only 0.22. Of the factors which are to some extent, under the control of the District Council, good housing is by far the most important in this situation. Your housing output has been excellent, but so long as there is overcrowding, and so many insanitary dwellings are still inhabited in the District, some responsibility must be accepted for it.

The number of deaths from road and other accidents was also unduly high, as will be seen from the tables which follow. An attempt is made in Infant Welfare Centres and Schools to teach safety rules, but more could be done on a District basis.

The number of cases of infectious disease notified was high, but this was entirely due to the epidemics of measles and whooping cough and not to any increase in the more serious infectious diseases.

The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, which had come into operation on the first day of October, 1949, were first brought to the attention of your District Council in 1950. Under Part VII of these regulations, the Medical Officer of Health of a district has authority to serve a notice insisting on the heat treatment of the milk at any registered premises within the district, if he is in possession of evidence which satisfies him that such milk is infected with disease communicable to man. By the end of 1950 six such notices had been served owing to infection of the milk by *Brucella Abortus*.

The enforcement of this provision may involve the local authority in considerable expense and this is objected to because the local authority cannot take any steps to limit the time during which it must be enforced by, for example, eliminating the infected animal(s) from a herd. Nor can the local authority prevent the sale of infected animals.



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From a public health point of view this provision must be regarded as a further step towards universal heat treatment (pasteurisation) of milk.

During 1950 refuse collections took place in 17 out of the 27 parishes. Although this is an increase of 2 over the coverage during 1949, the coverage and frequency was still far below that attained in the surrounding rural districts. In only 3 parishes were monthly collections made, in a further 2 they were six-weekly, in 2 they were eight-weekly, and in the remaining 10 they were quarterly.

Apart from the danger to public health this lack of services necessitates a good deal of uncontrolled tipping and causes hardship especially to the elderly and those with little or no garden space.

During 1950, 76 Council Houses were completed as against 54 in 1949. All of these were with three bedrooms.

Although published in 1949, the Report of the Royal Commission on Population, with its important recommendations on housing, has not received the attention it deserves.

Figures are given in this Report to show that about 42 per cent of married couples have only one or no children; 47 per cent have two to four children, and 11 per cent have five or more children.

It is clear therefore, that the three-bedroomed house is just the right size for only about half the number of families; it is unnecessarily big for 42 per cent, and too small for another 11 per cent. Furthermore, there are already about 10 per cent of the population aged 65 or over, and in another 30 years this percentage will have risen to at least 16. Far more small houses will be wanted in the future by those whose children have left home. It is unfair that these elderly people, and those who do not get married, should be obliged to remain in the dilapidated old cottages because they cannot fully utilise a three-bedroomed house.

It would be of great help if there were some clearly defined method of selecting tenants for Council Houses. This would help me to give you such information on the present housing conditions and other circumstances of applicants as would be most useful to you and, more important still, it would help to prevent any possible suspicion of favouritism in selection.

No action was taken during the year under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act 1948.

MEDICAL STATISTICS

<u>BIRTHS</u>	<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	Legitimate	96	76	172
	Illegitimate	11	5	16
		107	81	188
	<u>Stillbirths</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	Legitimate	1	2	3
	Illegitimate	0	0	0
		1	2	3

Population at mid-year, Births, Birthrate, Stillbirths,
Stillbirth rates, during the past five years

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Population	7,360	7,620	8,075	8,206	8,572
Births (Total)	156	179	185	152	188
Birthrate per 1000 of population	21.2	23.5	22.9	18.6	21.9
Stillbirths	4	5	2	2	3
Stillbirth rate, per 1000 of population	0.54	0.66	0.25	0.24	0.35
.. per 1000 total births	25.0	27.1	10.7	13.0	15.2

<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>All Ages</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
		45	38	83
	<u>Infants under 1 year</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
		5	2	7

Causes of death of infants under 1 year

<u>Cause</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Prematurity	3	1	4
Congenital abnormality	1	0	1
Atelectasis	1	0	1
Accidental asphyxia	0	1	1
(Totals)	5	2	7

(None of these deaths were of illegitimate infants)

Population at mid-year, deaths, deathrate, infant
deaths and Infant Mortality Rate, during the
last five years

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Population	7,360	7,620	8,075	8,206	8,572
Deaths	85	90	72	90	83
Death Rate per 1000 of population	11.5	11.8	8.9	10.8	9.7
Infant Deaths	2	5	1	5	7
Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 live Births	12.0	27.9	5.4	32.9	37.2

Deaths from certain selected causes during the
last five years (as available).

Cause	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Tuberculosis	-	2	2	3	4
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	-	-	8	10	5
Other notifiable infectious diseases	-	-	0	0	0
Motor vehicle and other accidents	-	-	2	1	9
Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer	16	9	11	9	9

Deaths according to ages

(Compiled from returns submitted by the District Registrar)

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	5	2	7
1 and under 5	1	2	3
5 and under 10	1	0	1
10 and under 20	1	0	1
20 and under 30	0	1	1
30 and under 40	0	1	1
40 and under 50	4	1	5
50 and under 60	6	2	8
60 and under 70	7	7	14
70 and under 80	7	11	18
80 and under 90	13	10	23
90 and over	0	1	1
Totals	45	38	83

Causes of Death at ages above 1 year and
Below 50

Age Group	Sex	Cause
1 to 5	Male	Tubercular meningitis
	Female	Broncho-pneumonia
	Female	Tubercular meningitis
5 to 10	Male	Road accident
10 to 20	Male	Road accident
20 to 30	Female	Tubercular meningitis
30 to 40	Female	Disseminated sclerosis
40 to 50	Male	Tuberculosis
	Male	Road accident
	Male	Industrial accident
	Male	Heart Failure
	Female	Cerebral haemorrhage

In addition 3 deaths due to accidental falls
occurred in persons over 60.

Deaths from all causes
(Registrar General's Short List)

List No.	Cause	Male	Female	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	0	1
2	Tuberculosis, other	1	2	3
10	Cancer, stomach	2	2	4
12	Cancer, breast	0	2	2
14	Cancer, other sites	2	1	3
15	Leukaemia	0	1	1
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	6	11
18	Coronary disease, angina	4	1	5
19	Hypertension with heart disease	2	1	3
20	Other heart disease	11	9	20
21	Other circulatory disease	2	1	3
23	Pneumonia	0	1	1
24	Bronchitis	1	3	4
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	0	1
31	Congenital malformations	1	1	2
32	Other diseases	5	3	8
33	Motor vehicle accidents	4	0	4
34	All Other accidents	2	3	5
Totals		45	38	83

The following table compares birth rates, death rates, etc, on this District with those of England and Wales and of the Administrative County of Norfolk in 1950

	England & Wales.	Norfolk	Swaffham R.D.
Birth rate	15.8	15.85	21.9
Stillbirth rate per 1000 of population	0.37	0.33	0.35
Death Rate	11.6	11.46	9.7
Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 live births	29.8	25.7	37.2
Tuberculosis death rate per 1000 of population	0.36	0.22	0.47
Tuberculosis case rate per 1000 of population	-	0.89	1.05

Infectious Diseases notified during the past five years
(figures as available)

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Tuberculosis, all sites	-	6	10	15	9
Paratyphoid fever	0	0	0	1	0
Scarlet fever	2	2	2	1	5
Whooping Cough	19	2	48	6	34
Erysipelas	0	0	0	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	1	0	1
Measles	119	5	46	48	206
Poliomyelitis	0	0	2	0	1
Pneumonia	2	2	3	1	1
Puerperal pyrexia	1	0	1	0	0
Infectious Jaundice	3	0	0	14	7

No case of food poisoning was notified.

The case of poliomyelitis notified in 1950 was not confirmed.

Infectious Diseases notified in 1950, by ages

Disease	under 1yr.	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	ovr 65.	Total
Tuberculosis all sites	0	1	2	2	1	2	1	0	9
Scarlet Fever	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	5
Whooping Cough	3	13	16	1	0	1	0	0	34
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Measles	4	75	102	18	4	3	0	0	206
Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Pneumonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Infectious Jaundice	0	0	2	0	1	2	2	0	7

Infectious Diseases notified in 1950, by month of notification

Disease.	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Tuberculosis all sites	1	1	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	9
Scarlet Fever	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	5
Whooping cough	0	0	0	0	0	5	7	16	1	2	0	3	34
Erysipelas	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Measles	31	22	20	2	5	10	13	12	9	38	18	26	206
Poliomyelitis	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Pneumonia	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Infectious Jaundice	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	7

Parish	Tuberculosis.	Infectious Diseases notified in 1950, according to Parishes							
		Scarlet. Fever	Whooping Cough.	Erysipelas.	Ophthalmia.	measles.	Polio.	Pneumonia.	Infectious Jaundice
Ashill	0	0	0	1	0	54	0	0	0
Beechamwell	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0
Bradenham E.	2	0	0	0	1	12	0	0	0
Bradenham W	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Cockley Cley	0	1	0	0	0	11	0	0	0
Cressingham Gt	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cressingham Lt	0	0	5	0	0	7	0	0	0
Gooderstone	0	0	1	0	0	12	0	1	0
Hilborough	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Holme Hale	1	0	0	0	0	7	1	0	0
Ickburgh	1	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	0
Lynford	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mundford	0	0	7	0	0	15	0	0	0
Narborough	1	0	9	0	0	14	0	0	1
Narford	0	0	1	0	0	5	0	0	0
Necton	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0
Newton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Oxborough	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0
Pickenham Nth	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	1
Pickenham Sth	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	1
Saham Toney	3	0	5	0	0	9	0	0	0
Southacre	0	2	1	0	0	5	0	0	1
Spurle	0	2	0	0	0	9	0	0	1
Weeting	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
TOTALS	9	5	34	1	1	206	1	1	7

The following Table shows the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at 31.12.50 compared with 31.12.49

	Respiratory			Non-Respiratory			Grand Total
	Male.	Female.	Total	Male.	Female.	Total	
31.12.49	17	22	39	10	8	18	57
31.12.50	19	18	37	5	8	13	50

I should like to record my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and to my colleagues on the staff for their co-operation.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant.

ROBERT N.C. McCURDY

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for 1950

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting an annual report for the year 1950 as follows :-

WATER SUPPLY

Although throughout the district the main source of water has been from individual shallow wells, the quality of which is doubtful, during the year, the Council's piped water supply schemes have progressed and the Parishes of Weeting, Mundford, and Sporle have a piped supply available. In the case of Sporle, however, the scheme was an emergency one, and water was only made available from public standpipes.

Parish of Weeting

Here, water is purchased in bulk from the neighbouring Rural District of Mildenhall. The number of consumers and amount of water used is shown in the following table.

Metered		Domestic		
No. of Meters	Consumption g.p.d.	Standpipe.	Direct to houses	Consumption g.p.d.
6	1800	28	37	2,200

Water from this supply has been subject to bacteriological examination, and results have proved it to be of good quality.

Parish of Mundford

Water is supplied from the Council's borehole, situate on the outskirts of the village. The supply is chlorinated at the source and sampling shows it to be of good bacteriological quality. The quantity of water used and number of consumers can be seen from the following table.

Metered		Domestic		
No. of meters	Consumption g.p.d.	Standpipe	Direct to houses	Consumption g.p.d.
7	300	19	43	1800

Parish of Sporle

This scheme was instituted as an emergency measure to overcome water shortage in the village. The source is from a borehole supplying the Council House Estate at Hills Close, but as the yield was insufficient for a general Village Scheme, supply is by means of public standpipe only, until the scheme is connected to the Council's Major Water Scheme.

General Water Scheme

Towards the end of 1950, the preparatory details for the Council's Major Water Scheme had been completed, and by the end of

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the year, the installation had been commenced, approximately two miles of main having been laid.

The source of supply for this scheme is to be from 2 bores one 18 inch diameter, and one 24 inch diameter, situate at Bradenham.

The quality of the water is bacteriologically good, but chemical analysis shows it to be rather hard with an iron content which necessitates installation of softening and iron removal plant.

Western Parishes

It is proposed that the Parishes in the Western part of the district shall be supplied by small Parish schemes.

By the end of the year, all preliminary work on schemes for Hilborough, Gooderstone and Narborough, had been completed, but installation work was held up by non-delivery of pipes.

In addition to the above, work is in hand for supplying water in pipes to the Parishes of Beechamwell, Cockley Cley, Foulden and Ickburgh.

SEWERAGE

None of the Parishes in the district have any system of public sewerage, the only plants being those of limited capacity serving Council Housing Sites.

Schemes have been prepared for sewerage the villages of Sporle, Necton and Mundford.

A combined scheme was prepared in co-operation with the Wayland Rural District Council, to serve the Parishes of Watton (Wayland R.D.) and Saham Toney ; this scheme was commenced during the year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Periodical refuse collections have been in operation in 17 Parishes of the district, and refuse is disposed of by tipping at 7 points covering the whole district. There have been no complaints of rat infestation at these tipping points, which is probably due to the fact that the refuse consists in the main, of tins bottles, etc, which do not provide sufficient food to attract rat population.

The Council have in operation, a cesspool emptier, which although engaged most of the time on Council House sites, also carries out work for private individuals upon request.

SHOPS

There are 41 shops in the district, 3 of which are butchers shops, the remainder being of the General Store and Post Office type.

Meat supplied in the district is obtained from Ministry of Food Slaughterhouses situate in neighbouring areas. During the year, 10 pounds of mutton were condemned.

ICE CREAM

No ice cream is manufactured in the district, and there are

9 establishments where ice cream is sold. In these cases, small refrigerators have been installed and ice cream stored is pre-packed.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

No action necessary.

SWIMMING AND BATHING POOLS

There are no public Bathing Pools in the district.

HOUSING.

During 1950, the Council completed 40 houses bringing its post-war total up to 256 houses completed.

Conversions have also been completed on behalf of the Ministry of Health, of military hutments, providing 53 units of accommodation. This makes a total of 91 dwellings from military hutments controlled by the Council.

The total number of dwellings now controlled by the Council, including all types is 569.

Yours obediently,

E.M. JENKINS

